

**ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
HERITAGE DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

Animal Abstract

Element Code: ABNUC29080

Data Sensitivity: No

CLASSIFICATION, NOMENCLATURE, DESCRIPTION, RANGE

NAME: *Amazilia beryllina*

COMMON NAME: Berylline Hummingbird

SYNONYMS:

FAMILY: Trochilidae

AUTHOR, PLACE OF PUBLICATION: Deppe, 1830

TYPE LOCALITY:

TYPE SPECIMEN:

TAXONOMIC UNIQUENESS: There are at least 319 species of hummingbirds. The *Amazilia beryllina* is one of three species in Arizona.

DESCRIPTION: The Berylline hummingbird attains a body length of 11 cm (4.25 in) and a weight of 4.25 to 5.75 grams. The male has a glittering green chest, and a gray to brown abdomen. Above, it is equally green on the crown and upper back, with a chestnut lower back that blends with a purple-chestnut rump. The central tail feathers are purple, and the outer ones are rufous with purple tips. The wings have a beautiful rufous patch not found on any other American hummer. The upper bill is black, the lower one reddish. The female has colors similar to the male though somewhat duller and more gray. Young beryllines have completely black bills.

AIDS TO IDENTIFICATION: The bright rufous tail and wings separate this hummingbird from all others.

ILLUSTRATIONS: Color photo (Wildlife Views, 1995:10)
Color drawing (National Geographic, 1999:265)
Color photo (Tyrell, 1985:10)
Color drawing (Sibley 2000)
Color photo (In <http://www.sabo.org/images/behunest.jpg>)
Color photo (Bowers in <http://www.enature.com/fieldguide/showSpeciesSH.asp?curGroupID=1&shapeID=966&...>)

TOTAL RANGE: From southeastern Arizona to Sonora and Chihuahua southward to Chiapas and east to Veracruz, Mexico. Also found in Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras.

RANGE WITHIN ARIZONA: Southeastern Arizona (Chiricahuas, Huachucas and Santa Rita mountain ranges).

SPECIES BIOLOGY AND POPULATION TRENDS

BIOLOGY: A hummingbird's tongue is tubular at the tip and brush tipped. They also have the unique ability to hover and feed at the same time. They have a small crop to store food for sustenance overnight. And they have the ability to endure temporary cool weather or cold nights by becoming dormant. Hummingbirds have the ability to fly forward, backward, shift sideways, and fly straight up and down. Because of their small size they have one of the highest metabolism of any warm-blooded vertebrate animal in the world. Hummingbirds must feed almost continuously all day to remain alive. Hummingbirds in northern ranges, migrate in the winter to warmer climates.

REPRODUCTION: Females build the nest and raise the young by themselves. They also establish nesting territories from which they drive out other hummingbirds. The nests are made of thin blade grass, completely dried and held together by spider webs. They are secured to their supporting branches with spider webbing. The exterior is covered with green leaflike lichens. The nest often has a streamer of a few blades of grass hanging below. The nests are oval and measure 40 to 50 mm with a cavity depth of 15mm. There are usually 2 eggs, they are long elliptical to long subelliptical. The eggs are white and measure 13 x 9 mm. In Arizona the *Amazilia beryllina* was observed nesting in July, hatching in July and August and fledging in late August to September. They are double brooded. In Oaxaca the nests have been observed in shrubs, oak and pine up to 15m above the ground. In the U.S. the nests have been found in riparian sycamores between 5 and 8m above the ground.

FOOD HABITS: Nectar from flowers is the main food source for hummingbirds. But they also eat small beetles, weevils, bugs, flies, gnats, mosquitoes, aphids, leafhoppers, flying ants, wasps, and spiders. Most hummingbirds get the insects from flowers.

HABITAT: Wooded riparian canyons, open woodland, primarily pine and pine-oak, ranging in nonbreeding season into arid scrub, deciduous forest.

ELEVATION: ca. 5,000 – 6,500 ft. (1,524-1,981 m).

PLANT COMMUNITY: Madrean evergreen woodland

POPULATION TRENDS: Unknown

SPECIES PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION**ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT STATUS:****STATE STATUS:****OTHER STATUS:**

Not Forest Service Sensitive (USDA, FS Region 3
1999)

[Forest Service Sensitive USDA, FS Region 3
1988]

MANAGEMENT FACTORS: Unknown

PROTECTIVE MEASURES TAKEN: Unknown

SUGGESTED PROJECTS: Unknown

LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP: USFS – Coronado National Forest; AMNH -
Southwestern Research Station; TNC – Ramsey Canyon.

SOURCES OF FURTHER INFORMATION**REFERENCES:**

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MAJOR KNOWLEDGEABLE INDIVIDUALS:

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

The family is thought to have originated in South America with a secondary radiation into North America. Species name is Latin for the color of beryl, bluish green to sea green.

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